

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, which are responsive to the first Official Action mailed on January 3, 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 18-65. Applicant has added new claims 66-81 that further define aspects of the inventions disclosed in the specification. Upon entry of the present amendments, Claims 18-81 are pending in the present application. The independent claims are Claims 18, 31, 41, 48, 54, 66, 70, 73, 76, and 79.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 41 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the Northwest Airlines 12/23/99 press release (“Northwest reference”) and the American Airlines 4/3/00 press release (“American reference”), respectively. The Applicants respectfully offer remarks to traverse these pending rejections.

A. The Northwest Reference Fails to Anticipate Claim 41

Claim 41 recites a method for providing passengers with seating information. Applicants respectfully submit that the attached Declaration of Prior Invention Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 executed on May 5, 2003 establishes that the Applicants invented the subject matter of rejected independent Claim 41 prior to the date of the Northwest reference. The Declaration establishes that the Applicants invented the subject matter of Claim 41 and reduced the subject matter to practice prior to December 23, 1999. Applicants respectfully submit that the Declaration overcomes the rejection of independent Claim 41 based on the Northwest reference.

B. The American Reference Fails to Anticipate Claim 48

Claim 48 is a method for displaying standby information to passengers waiting in a terminal. Applicants respectfully submit that the attached Declaration of Prior Inventorship Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 establishes that the Applicants invented the subject matter of rejected independent Claim 48 prior to the date of the American reference on which the Examiner’s rejection is based. Specifically, the declaration establishes that the Applicants invented and reduced to practice the subject matter of independent Claim 48 prior to April 3, 2000. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent Claim 48 based on the American reference is rendered moot.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 18, 31, and 54 as rendered obvious by the combination of the Northwest reference, the American reference, and U.S. Patent No. 5,710,887 to Chelliah et al. (the “Chelliah patent”). Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 18, 31, and 54 is overcome by the attached Declaration of Prior Invention Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131. The Declaration establishes that the subject matter of these claims was invented and reduced to practice prior to the dates of the American and Northwest references.

III. Dependent Claim Rejections

If an independent claim is allowable, then the claims dependent thereon should also be allowable because they add limitations to the independent claim. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1599 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In view of the foregoing remarks with respect to independent Claims 18, 31, 41, 48, and 54, the Applicants respectfully submit that each dependent claim is patentable over the combinations of the cited patents. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent Claims 19-30, 32-40, 42-47, 49-53, and 55-65.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed on January 3, 2003. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Oullette for considering these remarks. The Applicants have submitted remarks to traverse the rejections of Claims 18-65. Applicants have also added new Claims 66-81 that further define the disclosed inventions and are fully supported by the specification. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

An early notice of allowance is hereby courteously solicited. If any other issues remaining in this application may be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (404) 572-3509.

Respectfully submitted,



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